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National Intelligence Stu

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CIN — An Update

by

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The founding and the first year's activities of the Commor
were reported in FILS, Volume 2, number 5, October 1983,
an update on Thomas Troy's report.

Professional intelligence officers have traditionally beer
their work — shouting their good works from the housetop
professional association which would bring public attent
simply not the thing to do. But Congress changed all that.

As Tom Troy wrote, "retired intelligence officers, old pros, [illegible] ceaseless round of accusations, investigations, revelations, and condemnations of the intelligence agencies. They had organized in defense of themselves, their careers, their craft, their agencies. At the same time, they had found natural allies — retired military, defense specialists, some academicians, public-spirited citizens — whose concern for national defense made them also supportive of a strong, effective national intelligence system."

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"Out of the collaboration there came on the Washington scene, in the last decade, more than a baker's dozen of either new intelligence organizations or old organizations with a new interest in intelligence. From them came in the aggregate much talking, meeting, fund raising, and promoting of causes and projects. So much, in fact, that retired Ambassador Elbridge Durbrow of the Security and Intelligence Fund (now the Security and Intelligence Foundation) was laughingly moved to complain, 'There are too damned many people barking up the same tree. There's need for some coordination.' "

There had been some suggestion of a super-organization, to which all others could belong, which would act as a coordinating body for their efforts. Some organizations talked of combining, but as is normally the case, the question of which organization would be subsumed brought all these efforts to naught.

At the October 1981 convention of the National Military Intelligence Association (NMIA) at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., leaders of four professional intelligence groups discussed the profession, and particularly the role of their organizations. In addition to NMIA, the National

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